



Feeding waterfowl can lead to disease among waterfowl populations and aggressive behavior towards humans, especially among geese. Unconsumed bread and other human foods remain on the ground and becomes unsightly litter.



City of Idaho Falls



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Please
Don't Feed
the
Waterfowl

City of Idaho Falls



Feeding Waterfowl

Feeding waterfowl can create many problems for the birds as well as the environment, and it is prohibited by city ordinance on city-owned or city-maintained property, parks or right-of-ways.

Many may think that waterfowl cannot survive without the community feeding them. Ducks and geese have survived for many years without handouts. In fact, our greenbelt is overpopulated with ducks and geese. Please enjoy our waterfowl but respect their wildness by viewing them from a distance and by not feeding them. By doing so, you will provide them with their best chance of survival.

\$100 fine for feeding waterfowl on city-owned property. City Ordinance #2922

Reasons not to feed waterfowl:

Feeding waterfowl leads to overpopulation problems in our parks. Left on their own, ducks and geese will occupy areas that provide sufficient natural food. If the areas become depleted, they will relocate.

Waterfowl require proper nutrition to survive. Their diet must be high in essential fats, proteins and nutrients to ensure proper development, feather replacement and to recondition their bodies after migration and during breeding cycles. When people feed waterfowl food that is not part of their natural diet – bread, pastries, cookies and assorted junk food - they are unknowingly harming the geese as they become malnourished. It can also result in either delayed or stalled migration.

Feeding waterfowl can lead to severe habitat degradation. Providing food quickly attracts concentrations of waterfowl beyond what the natural ecosystem can support. Large concentrations of waterfowl can reduce water quality and deplete natural areas. As numbers increase, natural forage will decrease.



Feeding can cause waterfowl to lose their natural fear of humans. Fear is an instinctive sense essential to survival in the wild. While the food provider may have the best of intentions, the geese still have to survive in a wild and an urban world full of hazards – dogs, cats, cars and people – and the duck or goose that maintains its innate wildness ultimately has the best chance for survival.